

LOFTUS
URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL
AND THE
PORT SANITARY AUTHORITY

REPORTS
for the Year 1954

of the Medical Officer of Health
W. H. BUTCHER, V.R.D., M.A.,
D.M., D.P.H., BARRISTER - AT - LAW,
SURGEON COMMANDER R.N.V.R.





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TO THE CHAIRMAN AND MEMBERS
OF THE
LOFTUS URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL

MR. CHAIRMAN, MADAM AND GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit my eighth Annual Report for the year 1954, the contents and arrangements of which are in accordance with Circular 28 54 of the Ministry of Health.

I would like at the outset to record my thanks to the Chairman and the members of the Health Committee for their encouragement throughout the year.

To Mr. T. C. Ellison I am again obliged for his co-operation at all times.

On 1st June Miss M. Imeson was commissioned in the W.R.A.C. and her duties as Senior Clerk in the Area Health Office were undertaken by Mr. E. W. Peacock. I wish to thank both him and Mrs. G. H. Dean (née Waite) for their material contribution to the smooth conduct of affairs.

I am, Madam and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. H. BUTCHER,

Medical Officer of Health.

BROTTON,

2nd August, 1955.

TABLE 1

Public Health Officers

Whole Time Officers	Guisborough Urban District	Skelton & Brotton Urban District	Loftus Urban District
Medical Officer of Health who is also Asst. County Medical Officer No. 4 Area N.R.C.C. and School Medical Officer, N.R.C.C.	Dr. W. H. Butcher		
Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. A. T. Pallister*	Mr. J. Pattison	Mr. E. Hollis* (resigned 31.12.54)
Additional Sanitary Inspectors	Mr. E. Ward		

*Also Surveyor of the district concerned

SECTION I**Vital Statistics and Social Conditions****Population**

The Registrar-General's estimate of the population of the district in the mid-year 1954 is 7,670, as compared with one of 7,604 for the mid-year 1953.

General Statistics

I am indebted to the Financial Officer of the Council for the following figures:—

1. Area of the District in acres	....	....	9,974
2. No. of inhabited houses	....	....	2,583
3. Rateable Value	....	....	£32,471
4. Sum represented by a penny rate	....	....	£126

The District consists of the neat town of Loftus, the industrial communities of Skinningrove and of part of Carlin How and the hamlets of Liverton, Scaling, Easington, Street Houses and Cowbar. Gentle wooded ravines, the griffs of the Danish settlers, intersect rolling uplands studded with farms that reach northwards to the height of 699 feet at Boulby, or Rockcliff, the highest headland in England and Wales; southwards the fields merge with the moors at a height of nigh on a 1,000 feet. The principal industries to-day are the great Skinningrove Iron and Steel Works, and Agriculture. The Alum workings on Rockcliff, to which once Loftus owed its prosperity, ceased to be operated in 1868; and now of the ironstone mines only one is worked; while inshore fishing has practically ceased as a means of livelihood.

TABLE 2 — Vital Statistics

CAUSES OF DEATH

	MALE	FEMALE
Tuberculosis, Respiratory	—	—
Tuberculosis, other	—	—
Syphilitic Disease	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—
Meningo-coccal infections	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—	—
Measles	—	—
Other infective and parasitic Diseases	—	—
Malignant neoplasm of stomach	3	—
Malignant neoplasm of lung, bronchus	1	—
Malignant neoplasm of breast	—	1
Malignant neoplasm of uterus	—	—
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	7	3
Leukaemia	1	—
Diabetes	—	2
Vascular lesions of nervous system	7	15
Coronary disease, angina	11	7
Hypertension with heart disease	1	1
Other heart diseases	3	11
Other circulatory diseases	4	2
Influenza	1	—
Pneumonia	2	1
Bronchitis	3	—
Other diseases of respiratory system	1	—
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	—	—
Gastro-enteritis and diarrhoea	—	—
Nephritis and nephrosis	—	—
Hyperplasia of prostate	2	—
Pregnancy, child-birth, abortion	—	—
Congenital malformations	—	—
Other defined or ill-defined diseases	6	6
Motor Vehicle accidents	—	—
All other accidents	3	1
Suicide	1	—
Homicide and operations of war	—	—
ALL CAUSES	57	50

Deaths

The deaths are classified under the thirty-six headings based on the Abbreviated List of International Statistical Classification of Diseases, Injuries and Causes of Death 1948. 107 deaths of residents gave a death-rate of 14 per thousand of population; allowing for different age and sex distribution the comparable death-rate is 14.8 compared to 11.4 for England and Wales. Table 2 shows clearly what killed people in Loftus in 1954.

TABLE 2

Vital Statistics

		MALE	FEMALE	TOTAL
Live Births	....	65	74	139
Legitimate	....	63	71	134
Illegitimate	....	2	3	5
Still Births	....	—	1	1
Legitimate	....	—	1	1
Illegitimate	...	—	—	—

Deaths of Infants under 1 year of age

			MALE	FEMALE
Total	....	....	4	2
Legitimate	....	....	4	1
Illegitimate	....	....	—	1

Births

The number of births registered in the district during the year was 139, giving a birth-rate of 18 per thousand of the population, or a corrected one of 18.2 as compared with 15.2 for England and Wales. Six infants under the age of one year died, giving an infantile mortality rate of 43 per thousand live births compared with one of 25.5 for England and Wales. Five of the infants who died were under four weeks of age.

SECTION II

Infectious Diseases

Table 4 shows that the incidence of the notifiable infectious diseases as notified except tuberculosis. I observe that 3 people died of pneumonia, out of a total number notified of 4; I could conclude, no doubt erroneously, that notwithstanding the great advances in anti-biotics, pneumonia is a fatal disease in Loftus.

In October 3 cases of typhoid were discovered in the District, part of a small outbreak that included 2 cases in the adjacent part of Carlin How lying in the Skelton and Brotton Urban District. I give below a brief account of the outbreak.

The following cases were found in the chronological order of their discovery:—

L.B.	aged 15 months	
L.B.L.	aged 4 years	) sisters
C.B.L.	aged 3 years	
Lis.B.	aged 27	(Mother of L.B. and G.B.)
G.B.	aged 2 years	

L.B. was diagnosed on 7th October whilst under observation at the Middlesbrough General Hospital. I immediately visited the home and the homes of the intimate contacts. At the home of a family that were on the friendliest terms with the family of L.B., I found a child, L.B.L., ill in bed. On my advice her doctor sent her into West Lane Hospital, where she was found to be suffering from typhoid fever. Her sister, C.B.L., was found to have a positive faecal specimen although she was not ill when I saw her; I immediately sent her into West Lane Hospital. The first batch of faecal specimens of all the other contacts were negative but on a second sampling, Lis.B. was found positive, although the patient was not at the time ill. I sent her into West Lane Hospital together with her two remaining children, of whom one, G.B., subsequently developed positive faecal specimens. No further cases occurred.

This outbreak has some points of considerable interest:—

The cases were confined to two families who mixed daily, or almost daily; four cases were of children, that suggests that someone in close attendance on them was the infector.

In each case the infecting organism belonged to the same type Vi-phage Type D.1. Of one family, the mother, Lis.B. had been a German till her marriage in 1948. In the other family the father had been a Pole, the mother a German.

The type of organism Vi-phage Type D.1. accounts for some seven per cent of cases in Great Britain; in Western Germany it accounts for about the same percentage. Only three other instances of Vi-phage Type D.1. infection were recorded in Northumberland, Durham and Yorkshire by the Central Enteric Laboratory between 1950 and the present date. Lis.B. had an illness of three weeks duration in 1943, after the bombing of Hamburg; her illness began with diarrhoea and she was “unconscious for ten days”, that illness might well have been typhoid, and she might well have been a carrier since that illness. On the other hand her blood did not contain V.I. antibody which is against her being a carrier, but not proof positive because the bloods of ten per cent of carriers do not. Naturally as soon as she arrived in West Lane Hospital, she had to be cured so it will never be proved whether she was the carrier responsible for the outbreak.

I now concentrate on the parents of I.BL. and C.BL. Their faecal specimens taken on three occasions were all negative. Their bloods contained V.I. antibody (Salm. Typhi V.I. titre 1,16) but since they had typhoid inoculations as recently as 1945, that result must be disregarded. I now approached a lady whose parents had visited her from Germany between 1st August and 20th August; the parents had been very friendly with the two families involved. The faecal specimens from the lady herself were all negative.

It would have been interesting to have had specimens of faeces and of blood of the parents themselves but this approach, though pursued by me through the appropriate channels, proved impracticable.

In conclusion I would like to thank Dr. R. Blowers, Director of the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, for his constant advice, Dr. C. Grant Nicol of the Ministry of Health for his valuable information and co-operation, Dr. E. S. Anderson, Director of the Central Enteric Reference Laboratory, Dr. C. Elder, Physician Superintendent of West Lane Hospital, Middlesbrough, and Mr. G. D. Aspin, the Chief County Health Inspector, who was willing to place himself and his colleagues entirely at my disposal, had I required their co-operation. Last, and not least, I would like to thank the families concerned and all contacts for their courtesy and willing co-operation, under conditions of stress and worry.

During the late autumn and early winter there were outbreaks of upper respiratory infections, some of which had abdominal cramps. The cases, investigated by Dr. R. Blowers and myself where the findings were positive, were caused by the influenzal virus Type B.

The case of Paratyphoid occurred in a lady; the infecting organism was of the same type that had been found some 18 months previously in an outbreak in an Urban District where actually the lady had partaken of a meal some 14 days before she was taken ill. Though the particular type of organism is a common one, the possible connection between the meal and her illness naturally occurred to me; so I communicated with the Medical Officer of Health of the district concerned who carried out the necessary investigations but with a negative result.

During the year, an outbreak of vomiting with, in some cases, diarrhoea, took place in the schools supplied from the Loftus kitchens of the Schools Meals Service. The outbreak was investigated by myself in conjunction with Mr. G. D. Aspin, the Chief County Health Inspector. I took many samples of faeces, in none of which however were pathogenic organisms found. Mr. Aspin took samples of all the foodstuffs available; unfortunately one food had been thrown away and so could not be examined; in none of the foods were pathogenic organisms found. In cases of bowel upset it is most important to keep all foods eaten for bacteriological examination, and to report the outbreak at once to the Medical Officer of Health, every hour of delay reduces the chance of any positive results in the investigation undertaken. In this outbreak I could obtain no sample of vomit owing to the delay; so we remain in ignorance whether the outbreak was one of food-poisoning or of Epidemic Vomiting.

TABLE 4
NOTIFIABLE DISEASES, 1954
(other than Tuberculosis)

	All Ages	Under 1 year	1 year	2	3	4	5—	10—	15—	25—	35—	45—	65—	Age Un- known
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Pneumonia	4	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	2	1	—
Erysipelas	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	1	—
Measles	61	2	11	3	9	6	30	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	53	9	3	10	13	8	10	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Paratyphoid	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—
Typhoid	3	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	—

Tuberculosis

One new case of respiratory tuberculosis and one case of non-respiratory tuberculosis were notified during the year.

TABLE 5
Tuberculosis

AGE GROUPS Years	RESPIRATORY FORM		NON-RESPIRATORY FORM	
	Male	Female	Male	Female
0 to 4	—	—	—	—
5 to 9	—	—	—	—
10 to 14	—	—	—	—
15 to 19	—	—	—	—
20 to 24	—	—	—	—
25 to 44	—	—	—	1
45 to 54	1	—	—	—
55 to 64	—	—	—	—
65 to 74	—	—	—	—
TOTAL	1	—	—	1

There was no death from this cause.

The co-operation with the Chest Physician, Dr. L. Rowley, is satisfactory; the contacts are supervised by the health visitors of the Local Health Authority; children among the contacts are subjected to the tuberculin diagnostic jelly test; when necessary contacts are X-rayed. The Sanitary Inspector reports on their housing accommodation. Finally, the Local Sanitary Authority is sympathetic towards rehousing such cases as I recommend.

Immunization

At the end of 1952 a prophylactic was introduced for use in infants with a view to giving protection at the same time against both diphtheria and whooping cough.

TABLE 6
Immunizations against Diphtheria or Whooping Cough and Diphtheria

	Under 1	1	2	3	4	5-9	10-14	TOTAL
Completed Immunizations	44	37	11	3	—	28	4	127
Reinforcing Doses	—	—	—	—	—	178	8	186

Immunization was available to children at the hands of the family doctor, or at the school clinic of the Education Authority at Carlin How, and at the infant welfare centres of the Local Health Authority at Carlin How, and Loftus. Reinforcing doses were given at the schools by myself to children who had been immunized earlier in life. All children under the age of one year whom I immunise myself receive the combined prophylactic against both diphtheria and whooping cough, unless the child has already had whooping cough.

Regarding protection against smallpox, 22 persons received primary vaccinations and none were revaccinated.

SECTION III

The General Provision of Health Services in the District

1. Laboratory Facilities.

This work is now done entirely at the Public Health Laboratory, Middlesbrough, only the biological test for tuberculous milk being carried out at the Public Health Laboratory, Northallerton.

2. National Health Service Act, 1946.

With certain exceptions the Guisborough Area Health Sub-Committee of the Health Committee of the County Council exercises the functions of the Local Health Authority in supervising the day to day administration of the services provided under this Act. The Committee meets once a month in rotation at Guisborough, Skelton and Loftus. It is composed of members of the County Council, of the three District Councils of Guisborough, Skelton and Brotton, and Loftus, and of certain co-opted members. Among the services administered are the following:—

- Domestic Help Service.
- Prevention of illness: Care and After Care.
- Ambulance Service.
- Vaccination and Immunization.
- Home Nursing.
- Health Visiting.
- Midwifery.
- Care of Mothers and Young Children.

A comprehensive programme of clinical work with a preventative and educative outlook is carried out at the Centres and Clinics of the Local Health Authority throughout the District.

3. Guisborough Area Voluntary Care Committee.

I would like to record the useful work done by this Body for the welfare of persons suffering from tuberculosis and other illnesses. Whereas in connection with the welfare of the tuberculous the Committee has certain funds allocated to it, for the welfare of other sufferers it depends entirely on voluntary contributions. Enquiries and requests for assistance may be made to the Honorary Secretary, Area Health Office, Brotton, Saltburn (Telephone: Brotton 256).

4. National Assistance Acts, 1948 and 1951—Section 47.

During the year I managed to avoid advising the Local Sanitary Authorities to have recourse to the procedure laid down in these Acts. Getting the aged sick into hospital is becoming, in my experience, an increasingly difficult and lengthy procedure. I am not referring to the chronic sick but to the aged persons who, owing to the onset of an acute condition superimposed on old age or chronic illness, or to the worsening of a chronic

disease so that it has become acute, are no longer fit to remain at home, because the services of the Home Nurse and of the Domestic Help, even if relatives are available to help (many of these old persons are alone) cannot be regarded as proper care and attention. I do not suggest, from my limited experience, that these cases are numerous during the course of the year, but they do occur from month to month, and when they occur, for the patient's sake there should be hospital accommodation available without delay.

SECTION IV—Water Supplies

Cleveland Water Company

During the year 17 samples of water supplied to consumers by this Company were taken by me, all were found to be Class 1, *i.e.* waters of the highest degree of bacterial purity.

With the prospect that the new reservoir at Scaling will be completed within the next few years three outstanding matters should be capable of rectification; these are:—

- (a) the provision of a public water supply to communities such as Liverton, Boulby, Easington, Street Houses, Upton and Micklow where supplies are unsatisfactory, and the abolition of the unsatisfactory private supplies in Loftus itself and Liverton Mines.
- (b) the abolition of standpipes.
- (c) the abolition of pail closets throughout the built-up parts of the district.

Of the 2,583 houses 1,764 are supplied into the dwellings from the mains of the Cleveland Water Company, the statutory water undertaking; 328 into the dwellings from the mains of the Zetland Estates (South Loftus), of the Downe Estates (Liverton Mines) and of the Whitby Rural District Council; and 203 by means of standpipes. The remaining 288 derive their water from wells, streams or various small supplies serving a few houses.

The usual shortages of water recurred at Street Houses, where the distribution, or at least the sufficiency, depends not merely on the rainfall, but also, strange to relate, on the wind.

SECTION V.

Inspection and Supervision of Food

Milk.

The following samples of milk were taken by me and submitted to the necessary chemical and bacteriological examinations. The results are shown below:—

TABLE 7

Type of Milk	No. of Samples	Passed statutory tests for cleanliness	Failed the same	Biological test shows infection with tuberculosis	Brucellus Abortus found
Tuberculin Tested	5	4	1	—	—
Tuberculin Tested (Pasteurised)	1	1	—	—	—
Pasteurised	1	1	—	—	—

There are in all thirteen distributors or producer-distributors.

Food Poisoning Outbreaks

No outbreak of food poisoning was notified to me throughout the year.

Bakehouses

There are two bakehouses used in the district. Three inspections of these were carried out.

Fish Frying

There are ten fish frying premises in the district. These were inspected on twenty-two occasions.

Meat Inspection.

During the year slaughtering under the supervision of the Local Sanitary Authority was resumed. Before the four slaughterhouses were approved, I and Mr. Hollis inspected each and, where necessary, alterations were prescribed and carried out. Subsequently some 30 visits were paid for the purpose of inspecting the carcasses, involving a weight of 150 cwt.

Ice Cream

There are sixteen premises registered for the sale of this foodstuff; none is manufactured in the district.

Byelaws

Byelaws made under Section 15 of the Food and Drugs Act, 1938, for securing the observance of Sanitary and Cleanly Practices and Conditions in connection with the Handling, Wrapping and Delivery of Food and Sale of Food in the open air.

Section 20 of the Milk and Dairies Regulations 1949

No action was necessary under the above during the year.

SECTION VI—Housing

I am indebted to Mr. Ransom, your Sanitary Inspector, for the figures produced in the table below.

TABLE 10
Housing Statistics

New houses erected in 1954

(a) By the Council	....	....	....	....	....	48
(b) Other	....	....	....	....	....	2

1. *Inspection of dwellinghouses during the year*

(1) (a) Total number of dwellinghouses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	....	....	50
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	....	....	58
(2) (a) Number of dwellinghouses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932	..	...	—
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	.	.	—

Table 10—Housing Statistics—continued

(3)	Number of dwellinghouses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	....	—
(4)	Number of dwellinghouses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found to be not in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	....	30
2.	<i>Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices</i>		
(1)	Number of defective dwellinghouses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers		23
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses where work is in progress but not yet completed	....	3
(3)	Number of Notices in course of preparation (not yet served)	....	—
(4)	Number of Notices outstanding	....	4
3.	<i>Action under Statutory Powers during the year</i>		
A.	Proceedings under Sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936		
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	....	—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses rendered fit after service of formal notices		
(a)	By owners	....	—
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	....	—
B.	Proceedings under Public Health Acts		
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	....	—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices		
(a)	By Owners	....	—
(b)	By local authority in default of owners	....	—
C.	Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936		
(1)	Number of dwellinghouses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	....	—
(2)	Number of dwellinghouses demolished in pursuance of demolition orders	....	—
D.	Proceedings under section 12, Housing Act, 1936		
(1)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which closing orders were made	....	—
(2)	Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit	....	—

Table 10—Housing Statistics—continued

4. *Housing Act, 1935, Part 4, Overcrowding*

(1) (a)	Number of dwellings overcrowded at end of year	12
(b)	Number of families dwelling therein	18
(c)	Number of persons dwelling therein	78
(2)	Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during year	—
(3) (a)	Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year	2
(b)	Number of persons concerned in such cases	10
(4)	Particulars of any cases in which dwellinghouses have again become overcrowded after the Local Authority has taken steps for the abatement of overcrowding	—

SECTION VII

Sanitary Circumstances of the District

I give below a table of some of the sanitary work done during the year by your Sanitary Inspector, Mr. E. Hollis.

TABLE 11

Nuisance Inspections

Total number of inspections made for nuisances only (not including housing inspections)				271
Nuisances found	82	Total needing abatement	82	
Nuisances in hand, end of previous year	6	Abated during year	79	
Notices served, informal	82	Outstanding at end of year	3	
Notices served, statutory	3	Complied with	76	
Number of summonses or other legal proceedings		Complied with	3	
			—	

Regulated Buildings, Trades, etc.

There are no common lodging houses, houses let in lodgings, knackers yards or tents, vans and sheds in the district.

Byelaws in force in the District

Building Byelaws, 21st August, 1953.

Closet Accommodation

There are 95 privies with fixed receptacles and 297 pail closets in the district. In addition there are 3,019 water closets. Six pail closets were reconstructed as W.C.'s. 82 water closets were constructed for new houses. The Council allows a grant of £3 10/- per conversion of privies or pail closets to water closets.

Scavenging

Public scavenging is in operation throughout the district. The refuse is disposed of by means of tipping.

Shops Act, 1934, Sections 10 and 13

Twenty visits were paid under the above section. Unsatisfactory conditions were found in one instance and remedied.

Drainage and Sewerage

There is no sewage disposal works in the district, the sewage being discharged into the sea. A sewerage scheme for Cowbar is before the Ministry.

Skinningrove Iron and Steel Co. Ltd.

The emissions of dust from the tippler and crusher were kept under observation by myself in conjunction with the Inspector of Alkalies, etc. and Works, Mr. C. Bride. Certain steps had been taken by the Company to reduce the emissions and others are in progress. Apart from the emissions of dust, there has been, since the enlargement of the Works, an increase in the industrial haze that with suitable winds from time to time is dispersed over various parts of the vicinity.

SECTION VIII : Factories Act, 1937 and 1948

The following figures have been returned to the Director of Statistics, Ministry of Labour and National Service, regarding factories in the district.

TABLE 12

1. Inspections for the purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector)

Premises	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	No. of written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(I) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities	23	17	—	—
(II) Factories not included in (I) in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	—	—	—	—
(III) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers' premises)	1 (Building Sites)	15	—	—
TOTAL	24	32	—	—

TABLE 12—*continued*

2. Cases in which defects were found

	Number of cases in which defects were found			
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector
Want of Cleanliness	5	5	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—
TOTAL	6	6	—	—

Report to the Port Sanitary Authority for the year 1954

I beg to state that during the year no vessel entered or left the Port of Skinningrove.

